CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1.   A method for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based

telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in

packets for receipt by the destination, the method comprising:

sensing a predetermined trigger event;

transmitting a packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination

upon sensing the predetermined trigger event; and

processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in

real-time.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein processing includes suspending

processing of the data until the packetized announcement has been processed.

3.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein transmitting the packetized

announcement comprises merging the packetized announcement with the data.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein transmitting the packetized

announcement comprises dropping the data and transmitting only the packetized

announcement.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the packets include a header containing address and sequencing information and wherein transmitting the packetized announcement includes inserting a priority indicator into the header of the packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized announcement.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein sensing the predetermined trigger event includes sensing a predetermined amount of time.

7.   The method as recited in claim 6 wherein processing the announcement includes generating an announcement identifying an amount of time elapsed.

8.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the announcement is an audible announcement.

9.   The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the announcement is a pre-recorded voice announcement.

10.   The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the announcement is a synthesized announcement.

11.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the announcement is a visual announcement.

12.   The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the visual announcement is a

graphical announcement.

5   13.   The method as recited in claim 11wherein the visual announcement is a

textual announcement.

14.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the announcement is a vibratory

signal.

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15.   A system for generating real-time announcements in a digital packet-based

telecommunications network wherein data is transferred from a source to a destination in

packets for receipt by the destination, the system comprising:

an announcement server for sensing a predetermined trigger event;

a packet-based network in communication with the announcement server for

transmitting a packetized announcement with the data for receipt by the destination upon the

predetermined trigger event being sensed; and

a processing device in communication with the packet-based network for receiving

and processing the packetized announcement immediately for receipt by the destination in

20   real-time.

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16.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the processing device, in processing

the packetized announcement, is further operative to suspend processing of the data

until the packetized announcement has been processed.

5   17.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the packet-based network, in

transmitting the packetized announcement, is further operative to merge the

packetized announcement with the data.

18.   The system as recited in claim 17 wherein the packet-based network, in

10   transmitting the packetized announcement, is further operative to drop the data and transmit

only the packetized announcement.

19.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the packets include a header

containing address and sequencing information and wherein the packet-based network, in

15   transmitting the packetized announcement, is further operative to insert a priority indicator

into the header of the packetized announcement indicating high priority for the packetized

announcement.

20.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the announcement server, in

20   sensing the predetermined trigger event, is further operative to sense a predetermined amount

of time.

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21.   The system as recited in claim 20 wherein the processing device, in processing the announcement, is further operative to generate an announcement identifying an amount of time elapsed.

5   22.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the announcement is an audible announcement.

23.   The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the announcement is a pre-recorded voice announcement.

10   24.   The system as recited in claim 22 wherein the announcement is a synthesized announcement.

25.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the announcement is a visual
15   announcement.

26.   The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the visual announcement is a graphical announcement.

20   27.   The system as recited in claim 25 wherein the visual announcement is a textual announcement.

28.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the announcement is a vibratory

signal.

29.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the processing device is a wireless

handset.

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30.   The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the processing device is a

component of a wireless network.